



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

July 14, 2016

MR. ROBERT DELAWARE
MUCKROCK
DEPARTMENT MR 22184
POST OFFICE BOX 55819
BOSTON, MA 02205-5819

FOIPA Request No.: 1339367-000
Subject: SCHABOWSKI, GUNTER

Dear Mr. Delaware:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Explanation of Exemptions:

Section 552

☐ (b)(1)

☐ (b)(2)

☒ (b)(3)

50 U.S.C. 3024(i)(1)

☐ (b)(4)

☐ (b)(5)

☒ (b)(6)

☐ (b)(7)(A)

☐ (b)(7)(B)

☒ (b)(7)(C)

☒ (b)(7)(D)

☒ (b)(7)(E)

☐ (b)(7)(F)

☐ (b)(8)

☐ (b)(9)

Section 552a

☐ (d)(5)

☐ (j)(2)

☐ (k)(1)

☐ (k)(2)

☐ (k)(3)

☐ (k)(4)

☐ (k)(5)

☐ (k)(6)

☐ (k)(7)

19 pages were reviewed and 5 pages are being released.

☒ Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning, other Government Agency (ies) [OGA].

☐ This information has been referred to the OGA(s) for review and direct response to you.

☒ We are consulting with another agency. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is completed.

☒ In accordance with standard FBI practice and pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and Privacy Act exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. § 552/552a (b)(7)(E)/(j)(2)], this response neither confirms nor denies the existence of your subject's name on any watch lists.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist. Enclosed for your information is a copy of the Explanation of Exemptions.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the www.fbi.gov/foia website under "Contact Us." The FOIPA Request Number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request. Your patience is appreciated.

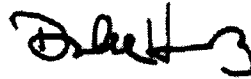
You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site: <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within sixty (60) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

☐ The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject(s) of your request was the focus of the investigation. Our search located additional references, in files relating to other individuals, or matters, which may or may not be about your subject(s). Our experience has shown when ident, references usually contain information similar to the information processed in the main file(s). Because of our significant backlog, we have given priority to processing only the main investigative file(s). If you want the references, you must submit a separate request for them in writing, and they will be reviewed at a later date, as time and resources permit.

☑

See additional information which follows.

Sincerely,



David M. Hardy
Section Chief
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

The enclosed documents represent the first interim release of information responsive to your FOIA request. This material is being provided to you at no charge.

As previously indicated, documents were located which originated with, or contained information concerning another agency. We are consulting with the other agency and are awaiting their response. Our office has processed all other information currently in our possession. Upon the completion of the outstanding consultation by our office, the FBI will correspond with you regarding those documents when the consultation is completed.

Enclosed are cross-references which are identifiable with the subject of your request. Cross-references are defined as mentions of the subject of your request in files to other individuals, organizations, events, activities. In processing the cross-references, the pages considered for possible release included only those pages which mention the subject of your request and any additional pages showing the context in which the subject was mentioned. The cross-reference pages were processed to the provisions of the FOIA and are being released to you in redacted form.

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

~~SECRET~~

EAST EUROPEAN PROFILE

~~ERICH HONECKER~~



Erich Honecker is Chief of State of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and is the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party (SED), which rules the GDR.

Honecker was born August 25, 1912, in Wiebelskirchen, located in the Saar region of Germany. His political convictions were formed early in his life by his father. His father was one of the early members of the German Communist Party after World War I, and raised his children in the Marxist theory. At the tender age of eight, Honecker accompanied his mother while she distributed the Communist newspaper "Arbeiter Zeitung" ("Worker newspaper"). At the age of ten, he became a member of the Communist-sponsored Young Pioneers and, at 14, he joined the Communist Youth League. In 1929, Honecker became a full-fledged member of the Communist Party.

School acquaintances of Honecker's recall that he was not bright in school and took no interest in sports. However, he was a gifted speaker with demagogic tendencies and showed an almost fanatical absorption in politics. While in school, Honecker began his apprenticeship in the roofing business. Soon thereafter, he began to devote all of his time to party affairs. In 1930, he was sent to Moscow to attend the school of the Communist Youth International.

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After the Nazis came to power in 1933 and outlawed the Communist Party, Honecker organized underground resistance in various areas of Germany. He was arrested by the Gestapo in December 1935 on charges of committing high treason and was sentenced to 10 years of hard labor. In 1945, Honecker was freed by the Soviet Army and was quickly caught up with the "Ulbricht group."

[REDACTED]

b7E

[REDACTED] Honecker was tasked by the new leadership to organize the Free German Youth movement during 1945-1946 and was its chairman until 1955. In 1946, Honecker was elected to the Central Committee of the Communist Party and was one of the prime movers behind the fusion of the Communist and Social Democratic parties in East Germany into the SED. After leaving the chairmanship of the Free German Youth in 1955, Honecker spent two years in Moscow at the Communist Party's training school.

Honecker returned to Germany in 1958 and was rewarded for his loyalty by receiving the position of secretary of the SED Central Committee (which has the special responsibility for the armed forces and security affairs). As head of the state security apparatus and civilian chief of the People's Army, Honecker held the second most important post on the East German political scene. Honecker controlled the preparations to seal off West Berlin and, in 1961, he supervised the construction of the Berlin Wall.

Throughout Honecker's rise to power, he remained an unbending advocate of Communist ideology as defined by the Soviet authorities. His influence in the SED grew rapidly and, in 1971, after Walter Ulbricht announced his retirement as the First Secretary of the SED, Honecker was named his successor. In 1976, Honecker was named Chief of State.

Honecker has been in power for 17 years and his position appears to be strong, despite recent grumblings in the party. At the age of 76, he is in good health and has no known serious ailments. Honecker is unlikely to retire in the near future; however, due to his age, there is a need to look at his potential successors. These successors are as follows:

[REDACTED]

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(2) Werner Felfe, 60, is a Politburo member and Central Committee secretary for agriculture since 1981. He has ties to Honecker dating back to the 1950s and is a competent administrator.

(3) Guenter Schabowski, 59, is a Politburo member and a Central Committee secretary since 1986. He is a Honecker loyalist with strong Soviet ties.

(4) Horst Dohlus, 62, is a Politburo member and the Central Committee secretary for party organs. He is a longtime Honecker associate.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1339367-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 9
Page 1 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 2 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 3 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 4 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 5 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 6 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 7 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 8 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 9 ~ Referral/Consult;

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
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FOI/PA# 1339367-0

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DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MEMORANDUM

~~SECRET~~
DATE: 2/5/88

TO: SAC [REDACTED] (P)

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FROM: SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
(OO:NY)

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~~This document is classified "Secret" in its entirety.~~

[REDACTED]

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For the information of SAC, [REDACTED] writer met with [REDACTED] at asset's office. Asset provided writer with a copy of a report concerning captioned subject. A copy of this report has been entered in this file under separate cover. Asset also provided additional information supplementing this report.

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Asset stated that he and subject have been planning to meet during the entire fall [REDACTED] always put asset off explaining that he was much too busy. Asset felt that this was quite true as [REDACTED] was the [REDACTED] for [REDACTED]. Asset and subject were finally able to meet [REDACTED] at P.J. CLARKE'S RESTAURANT, NYC. This meeting is detailed in asset's report.

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Asset stated that he was able to have another discussion with subject again [REDACTED]

Asset stated that [REDACTED] engaged him in an usually frank discussion on GDR politics. An article in the most recent edition of the West German magazine "Spiegel". This article dealt with the latest GDR government attempts to suppress dissident groups in the GDR. The article also dealt with the impending departure of ERICH HOENECKER as leader of the GDR government and who his replacement might be.

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1- [REDACTED]
1- [REDACTED]

DJC:cmg
(2)

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b3

~~SECRET~~

Classified by 6-3
Declassify on OADR

[REDACTED]

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 5 1988	
FBI - NEW YORK	

~~SECRET~~

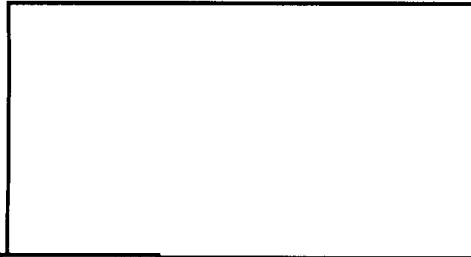
Asset stated that [] said the current Soviet reform movement was causing a great deal of confusion in the GDR. A segment of the public is looking to the Soviet Union for leadership in the new openness. The GDR government itself is sticking to a more traditional SED line. [] actually said to asset that some of the statements of the GDR dissenters have some merit.

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Concerning the impending change of leadership in the GDR, [] told asset of the following three individuals:

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GUENTER SCHABOWSKI
First Secretary
SED District Organization
East Berlin Bezirk



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[] said that these were the leading candidates among a rather large cast of characters.

Asset stated that [] told him that they could get together again in the near future for a conversation in a more private place. [] seemed upset, according to asset, that he had been observed engaged in a conversation with asset by a []. This apparently made [] very uncomfortable.

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Asset stated that he will keep writer advised of any further developments in this matter. Asset will also provide writer with a written report of his meetings with subject.

~~SECRET~~